

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 14 and 16 have been canceled.

Claim 3 has been amended to restrict the PAVE unit content to from 2.5 to 4.0 mole percent relative to all monomer units constituting the tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) copolymer. Support is found, for example, at page 18, line 16 of the specification. Reference to TFE/HFP copolymer has been deleted.

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

In response to the objection to the Abstract and the objection to claim 7, the Abstract has been amended to comply with MPEP guidelines and claim 7 has been canceled. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 12, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-114884. Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '884, further in view of U.S. Patent 6,518,505 to Matsui et al.

The rejected claims have been canceled, to thereby obviate the foregoing rejections. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '884 in view of JP 2000-212365 (JP '365).

Applicants traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

The fluororesin of claim 3 has a critical shear rate, at 360°C, of 200 to 500 sec⁻¹ and comprises a tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) copolymer having a perfluoro(alkyl

vinyl ether) unit content of 2.5 to 4.0 mole percent relative to all monomer units, constituting the polymer.

The specific critical shear rate and PFVE unit content as claimed in amended claim 3 provide a fluororesin far superior in MIT value (folding endurance measurement, described in paragraph (7) at page 42 of the specification).

Examples 18-22 of the specification (perfluoro(alkylvinyl ether) unit content of 3.5, 2.6, 2.6, 2.6 and 2.9 mole %, respectively) show higher MIT values than those of Examples 17, 23 and 24 (perfluoro(alkylvinyl ether) unit content of 2.0, 1.6 and 1.6 mole %, respectively). Further, Example 24 had a critical shear rate of 135 sec^{-1} outside the scope of claim 3. See Table 5 at page 43 of the specification, reproduced below.

TABLE 5

	Resin species	Composition [mole ratio]	Melting point [° C.]	MFR [g/10 minute] (measurement temperature)	Critical shear rate (sec^{-1})	MIT (cycle)
Example 17	Fluororesin F-1	TFE/PPVE = 98.0/2.0	300	63 (372° C.)	240	4100
Example 18	Fluororesin F-2	TFE/PPVE = 96.5/3.5	297	67 (372° C.)	240	17000
Example 19	Fluororesin F-12	TFE/PPVE = 97.4/2.6	300	63 (372° C.)	240	6500
Example 20	Fluororesin F-13	TFE/PPVE = 97.4/2.6	300	67 (372° C.)	240	6000
Example 21	Fluororesin F-14	TFE/PPVE = 97.4/2.6	300	77 (372° C.)	250	5500
Example 22	Fluororesin F-15	TFE/PPVE = 97.1/2.9	300	90 (372° C.)	290	5400
Example 23	Fluororesin F-16	TFE/PPVE = 98.4/1.6	301	63 (372° C.)	240	1500
Example 24	Fluororesin F-17	TFE/PPVE = 98.4/1.6	301	46 (372° C.)	135	3900

In contrast, JP '884 does not disclose a fluororesin having the claimed critical shear rate. Although JP '365 discloses the critical shear rate, the values measured at 325°C are different

from the claimed value measured at 360°C. See JP '365, [0022] and Table 1. Further, there is nothing in the applied prior art which would lead one of ordinary skill to select a critical shear rate within the claimed range.

Moreover, JP '884 discloses a fluororesin having a perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) unit. However, the disclosed range thereof differs from that of the present invention.

Furthermore, although JP '884 comprises a fluororesin having a PAVE content of 2 mole% in Examples 1 and 2, the fluororesin is inferior in MIT value. Indeed, the fluororesin of Example 17 of the specification, which has 2.0 mole% PAVE content, shows a MIT value of 4100 smaller than that of Examples 18-22.

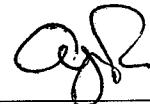
Therefore, the fluororesin of claim 3 providing for the combination of a specific critical shear rate and PFVE unit content so as to exhibit a remarkably superior MIT value, accordingly is unobvious over the prior art relied upon by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection and allowance of claims 3, 4 and 13 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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